reserves and other hydrocarbon sector information, statistical methods, analytical techniques and systems documentation and electronic information dissemination.

9. The MoU with UZBEKNEFTGAZ provides for bilateral cooperation in different areas of hydrocarbon sector, including joint bids for assets, bidding in NELP rounds for participation in the Indian E&P sector, and cooperation in regard to R&D technology, training of specialists and promotion of environment friendly fuels.

10. The MoUs with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of Romania, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy of Republic of Korea will establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship and encourage and promote bilateral cooperation on oil and natural gas development issues. The MoU with Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan will help us in acquiring know-how in setting up our strategic storage which will enhance our energy security and meet supply disruptions and emergency exigencies. The MoU with U'S EIA would result in exchange of hydrocarbon sector information to complement existing hydrocarbon sector statistics and other hydrocarbon sector market information. The MoU with Uzbekistan is intended to help Indian Oil PSUs to secure oil & gas assets in Uzbekistan and third countries.

11. This Government-to-Government dialogue and MoUs have resulted in creating a conducive environment for the companies to cooperate in acquiring assets in third countries. ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) has acquired an oil asset in Syria with China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and another asset in Colombia with China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (SINOPEC). In addition, OVL as well as other National Oil Companies (NOCs) such as Oil India Ltd. (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporatin Ltd. (HPCL) have acquired participating interests in Oil and Gas projects in 20 countries. Total investment made by NOCs in Overseas E&P projects as at the end of 2006 was approx. Rs. 21000 crore.

Functioning of LPG distributors in U.P.

247. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many LPG distributors in Uttar Pradesh are not reporting the number of consumers correctly;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the LPG distributors in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Balia district are giving gas cylinders to people without giving them required papers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such agencies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported any instances of LPG distributorships in Uttar Pradesh who are not reporting the correct number of consumers. OMCs have also not reported any established cases where LPG distributors are giving gas cylinders to people without giving them required papers in Uttar Pradesh, including the District of Balia. However, few instances of diversion of domestic LPG for commercial use have come to the notice of OMCs.

(c) to (d) Action against the erring distributors is taken in accordance with the provisions under the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). In addition to the action taken by the OMCs under the MDG, State Governments are empowered to take action against illegal use of domestic LPG.

The following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:

(i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of OMCs is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

(ii) The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no diversion/black marketing takes place. In terms of the MDG in case of establishment of any diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is taken against the distributor:—

Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

(iii) Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

(iv) Government have advised OMCs to introduce different colours for domestic & non-domestic cylinders. This is expected to help in controlling the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

Refinery at Kakinada

248. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC is holding talks with any private players for forging a strategic partnership on its proposed refinery at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the expected cost of the project and by when it would commence the operations; and

(c) what would be the stake of ONGC, financial institutions and the strategic partner in the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Mangalore Refinery Petrochemical Limited (MRPL) a subsidiary of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Andhra Pradesh, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) and Kakinada Sea Ports Ltd. (KSPL) to set up an export oriented refinery within Kakinada Special Economic Zone (SEZ) subject to techno-economic feasibility.

(b) M/s Engineers India Limited (EIL) has been engaged to prepare and submit the Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for a capacity of 15.0 MMT and the same is awaited. The exact quantum of investment and timeline for completion can be firmed up only after receipt of DFR & Financial appraisal of the same.